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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/541,121	06/30/2005	Michel Droux	273503US0PCT	7809
22850 7590 01/09/2009 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER				
HALPERN, MARK				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1791				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/09/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/541,121

Applicant(s)

DROUX ET AL.

Examiner

Mark Halpern

Art Unit

1791

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE received 12/23/08.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 18-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17, 21, 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1) A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/23/08 has been entered. Claim 1 is amended, and new claims 21-22 are offered for consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2) Claims 1-17, 21-22, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim 1, lines 8-9, recite phrase "wherein the glass fibers and the cellulose fibers are uniformly dispersed in the formed veil." The concept of glass fibers and cellulose fibers being uniformly dispersed is not supported in the original Specification and is

considered as new matter.

Claim 21, line 11, recites phrase "the glass fibers and the cellulose fibers are uniformly dispersed in the formed veil." The concept of glass fibers and cellulose fibers being uniformly dispersed is not supported in the original Specification and is considered as new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3) Claims 1-17, 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 21, recitation of "the glass fibers and the cellulose fibers are uniformly dispersed in the formed veil." is not clear since it is not supported in the original Specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4) Claims 1, 4-7, 10-12, 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kajander (5,837,620).

Claims 1, 4, 10-11, 15: Kajander discloses the process of making a mat that includes mixing chopped glass fibers and cellulosic fibers into a slurry stream of whitewater that is cationic and placing the slurry on a wire, draining the slurry over the wire to create a web followed by drying the formed web in an oven of up to 350 °F (col. 3 lines 64-67). The process includes the application of a binder to the bed (entire document). In view that the glass fibers and cellulosic fibers are mixed in a slurry, the glass fibers and the cellulosic fibers are uniformly dispersed or in the least it, would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made that the mixing of said fibers in a slurry would result in uniformly distributed fibers.

Claim 5: cationic dispersant is disclosed in Example 1, col. 4, lines 49-63.

Claims 6-7, 12: the product composition is disclosed in the Examples.

Claims 16-17; the cellulose treatment is disclosed.

5) Claims 2-3, 8-9, 13-14, 21-22, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajander.

Claims 2-3: Kajander is applied as above for claim 1, Kajander is silent on the cationic Neutrality, however, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, that the cationic neutrality be in the claimed range depending on the product requirements.

Claims 8-9: Kajander is applied as above for claim 1, Kajander is silent on the white water viscosity, however, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, that the white water viscosity be in the claimed range depending on the product requirements.

Claims 13-14: Kajander is applied as above for claim 1, Kajander is silent on the product basis weight, however, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, that the product basis weight be any weight including the claimed basis weight depending on the product requirements.

Claim 21: Kajander discloses the process of making a mat that includes mixing chopped glass fibers and cellulosic fibers into a slurry stream of whitewater that is cationic and placing the slurry on a wire, draining the slurry over the wire to create a web followed by drying the formed web in an oven of up to 350 °F (col. 3 lines 64-67). The process includes the application of a binder to the bed (entire document). In view that the glass fibers and cellulosic fibers are mixed in a slurry, the glass fibers and the cellulosic fibers are uniformly dispersed or in the least it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made that the mixing of said fibers in a slurry would result in uniformly distributed fibers. In view that Kajander teaches that

the fibers may be blended in different concentrations (col. 3, lines 16-42), it would have been obvious that the blending of fibers include the claimed amounts.

Claim 22: mat tear strength of 600 grams is disclosed in Table (col. 5, lines 12-20).

Response to Amendment

6) Applicants' arguments filed 10/23/2008, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants allege that the amended claim 1, and new claim 21, phrase "the glass fibers and the cellulose fibers are uniformly dispersed in the formed veil." is not disclosed by the cited prior art, Kajander.

Claims 1, 21, recitation of "the glass fibers and the cellulose fibers are uniformly dispersed in the formed veil." is not supported in the original Specification and is considered as new matter. In view that the glass fibers and cellulosic fibers are mixed in a slurry, the glass fibers and the cellulosic fibers are uniformly dispersed or in the least it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made that the mixing of said fibers in a slurry of Kajander would result in uniformly distributed fibers.

Applicants allege that heating of the mixture in Kajander does not result in a veil. Heating step is disclosed in Kajander in the process of making a mat.

The resolution of dependent claims is based on the resolution of independent claims 1, 21.

Conclusion

7) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Halpern whose telephone no. is 571-272-1190.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

/Mark Halpern/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1791